

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01113

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR GOODMAN AND MEEKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON CHEESE AND POULTRY AT
FRG FEDMINAG

1. ON 20 JANUARY 1975 MR. ROLLAND ANDERSON AND AGATT REPS
CALLED AT FEDMINAG TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY THE CHEESE AND
POULTRY SITUATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE U.S., THE EC, AND THE
FRG. MEETINGS IN BOTH COMMODITY AREAS WERE HELD WITH
WORKING LEVEL SPECIALISTS.

2. CHEESE: THE GERMANS ARE INTERESTED IN A RAPID RESO-
LUTION OF THE CHEESE EXPORT RESTITUTION PROBLEM. THEY
BELIEVE THAT GERMANY, DUE TO A RELATIVELY FAVORABLE DE-
MAND SITUATION, IS CURRENTLY NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY
THE LIFTING OF THE RESTITUTIONS. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THE EC COME TO TERMS WITH THE U.S. SO
THAT A MODEST STABLE GERMAN CHEESE EXPORT MARKET IN THE
U.S. CAN BE DEVELOPED - MOSTLY EMMENTHALER. GERMAN
CHEESE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN THE PAST HAVE EXPERIENCED
WIDE FLUCTUATIONS. THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO SURPLUSES ON
HAND. THIS SUPPLY SITUATION AND THE LIFTING OF THE EX-
PORT RESTITUTION ARE EXPECTED TO REDUCE GERMAN CHEESE
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EXPORTS TO THE U.S. THIS YEAR.

IN DISCUSSING VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM, MINAG OFFICIALS FELT THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EC-WIDE QUOTA-TYPE SYSTEM FOR CHEESE WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE OTHER MEMBER STATES.

AS TO CHEESE IN STORAGE IN THE EC, THE OFFICIALS STATED THAT IT IS MOSTLY FRENCH EMMENTHALER WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING STORED PRIVATE STORAGE WITH RESTITUTION TO TITLE HOLDERS). MINAG SOURCES INDICATED THAT GERMANY HAD ONLY A TOKEN AMOUNT (ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 50 M.T.) STORED. APPARENTLY THE PRESENT GERMAN EMMENTHALER PROCESS RESULTS IN A PRODUCT THAT DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO STORAGE, DUE TO RAPID LOSS OF QUALITY IN STORAGE. EMMENTHALER OF FRENCH ORIGIN, MOSTLY FROM BRETAGNE AND NORMANDIE, IS PROCESSED DIFFERENTLY AND CAN BE STORED FOR LONGER PERIODS.

3. POULTRY: WE WERE INFORMED BY THE MINAG TECHNICAL REPS THAT THEY WERE NOT ADVISED BY THE EC COMMISSION THAT TECHNICAL POULTRY MEETINGS HAD BEEN HELD BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE EC. THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION AMONG MINAG OFFICIALS ABOUT WHO COULD AND WHO DID SPEAK ON THEIR FIELD OF EXPERTISE WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

THE U.S. POSITION AS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION WAS EXPLAINED TO MINAG OFFICIALS. SINCE GERMAN DOMESTIC TURKEY PRODUCTION IS MOSTLY HEAVY BIRDS, GERMAN PRODUCERS WOULD OBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT IMPORTS OF WHOLE HEAVY BIRDS. HOWEVER, MINAG OFFICIALS STATED THAT THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO MAINTAINING IMPORTS OF U.S. TURKEY PARTS AND PRODUCTS AT ABOUT 1973 LEVELS (OR EVEN SLIGHTLY HIGHER). IN 1973 GERMAN IMPORTS OF U.S. POULTRY MEAT WERE ABOUT 11,000 M.T. ACCORDING TO MINAG OFFICIALS, THE SMALL BIRDS AND TURKEY PARTS EXPORTED BY THE DUTCH, DANES, AND FRENCH TO THE GERMAN MARKET ARE IN COMPETITION WITH U.S. TURKEY PARTS. MINAG OFFICIALS STATED POSITIVELY THAT THESE THREE COUNTRIES ARE AIMING AT COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF U.S. POULTRY MEAT IN THE GERMAN MARKET.

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